

### III. BEECH RIDGE CULTURAL CONTEXT

This chapter offers a brief review of Archaic chronological models from key sites in the Eastern United States as a means of providing a contextual backdrop to the sequence documented at the Beech Ridge Site. A number of classic sites excavated in the Eastern United States have revealed a sequence of point types—spanning from the Paleoindian period through to the Late Archaic period—that has broad geographic applicability. The stratigraphic sequence of late Paleoindian and Archaic projectile points revealed in the excavations at Beech Ridge are viewed as a localized representation of what can be interpreted as a series of horizon markers (in the sense of Willey and Phillips 1958 definition) with relatively tight chronological boundaries.

This discussion will not focus on the later prehistoric record or the historic record of the Beech Ridge project area. Such information is readily available in a number of sources widely available. HCI's report on the Phase I investigations at the Beech Ridge Site (HCI 2002) provides a guide to these sources. Other summaries of the later periods can be found in Petraglia 2002 and 2003. This context is, thus, tailored to the principal resources uncovered at this site.

Each individual archaeological site provides an investigator with unique opportunities to explore differing issues in the past. Some sites may be more suitable for addressing specific research aspects (such as settlement, ceramic technology, or other related issues), while others may provide unparalleled opportunities to explore issues such as depositional events, climatic change, and the chronology of cultural materials. In this regard, the Beech Ridge Site offers a means to expand upon the chronological record from the late Pleistocene through the Holocene in the Delmarva region. As noted in Chapter I, a suite of stratigraphically isolated late Paleoindian through Late Archaic horizons marked by classic “fossil index” project points was uncovered during the course of the data-recovery excavations at the site. In keeping with the opening thought of this paragraph, Beech Ridge is considered to be well suited for addressing aspects of local chronological issues above other types of questions.

As noted, excavations at the Beech Ridge Site provided a rare opportunity to view a lengthy late Paleo through Archaic continuum of occupation, even though the representative components were small in size or transient in nature. The site preserves a sequence of components in fairly well-sealed geomorphological contexts; these components are interpreted as short-term visits to the site, visits conducted for a variety of exploitative purposes, such as hunting, gathering plant resources, or perhaps marking camps along routes of transit between larger settlements. One fact explicitly assumed here and throughout the report is that the archaeological remains documented, recovered, and analyzed from the site are material remains of societies—or groups—that fall within the anthropological framework termed “hunters and gatherers,” a level of societal integration found throughout the world and one that has been assumed preceded the development of lifestyles based on horticulture or agriculture (Service 1962, 1966). This paragraph brings to the fore several major research issues, each of which will be discussed in various parts of this report. Some basic issues include chronology and the level of societal development (or level of socio-cultural integration) and the identification of such cultural units through archaeological investigations. Chronology and the development of the framework utilized herein forms the basis of this chapter. Chapter V deals with issues relating to hunters and gatherers and how

Beech Ridge may be linked to anthropological concepts developed in the analysis of these societies.

## CHRONOLOGICAL ISSUES

Put simply, chronology matters. How old things are (material things as in artifacts or cultural material) is important to know before proceeding with any further analytical steps in the Beech Ridge archaeological process. Viewing a site as a series of events in a processual-depositional continuum that bear on cultural stability or cultural change depends on how long such events lasted, when they started, and when they stopped (or transitioned to other events or stages). How we know the age of something and what the implications are for analysis needs to be discussed in some detail.

As a prelude to understanding the Beech Ridge sequence of Late Paleo to Middle Archaic point types, a review of the primary literature that established the stratigraphic and chronological ordering of the “fossil index” points will be discussed. As stressed in Chapter I of this report, understanding the chronological ordering is a crucial intellectual endeavor to provide a backdrop for viewing the changing hunter-gatherer occupations of the Beech Ridge Site. It should be made explicit that there is an underlying assumption at work here. Stylistically distinct artifacts such as projectile points were produced in keeping with culturally organized, recognized, and, perhaps to an unknown degree, technologically mandated guidelines for shaping both haft and blade elements of stone projectiles. Certainly the most identifiable portion of a point is the hafting element. How a point is attached to a shaft—be it via a small wooden foreshaft inserted into a larger “spear” (or thrusting implement) or attached directly to the main shaft—is a matter that likely follows cultural norms as much as specific technological guidelines. Corner-notched, parallel-stemmed, or contracting-stemmed types of hafting elements may each have differing means of attaching the lithic implement to the wooden or bone shaft. It is assumed that these methods are culturally shared and may signify not only matters of technology but also cultural identity.

Erland Nordenskiöld, who produced maps showing distributions of many items of material culture, demonstrates such patterning ethnographically in South America (1924). Most interesting, perhaps, were methods of arrow production, bow cross-sections, and how the knot on a bowstring was tied. These items had discrete boundaries that could be broadly tied to language groups or, more certainly, subcultural areas. Other items of material culture and minute aspects of their construction also show similar distributions through space based on ethnic groups. It is argued that similar kinds of cultural “mapping” of style and technology, in this case projectile point types, occurred in Eastern North American from the Paleoindian period on through time.

### *The Archaic Sequence from the Hardaway Site*

Hardaway is the classic site that chronologically orders Dalton-Hardaway to Palmer/Kirk corner-notched point types in clear succession. Indeed, the site and its surrounding area provided the names for the Hardaway, Palmer, and Kirk projectile points. This site, located along the Yadkin River in the piedmont province of North Carolina, was described in Coe’s classic volume

reporting on the “Formative” cultures of the Carolina Piedmont, a much-cited volume that provides the chronological backbone of Eastern North American Archaic sequences east of the Appalachians (Coe 1964). The sequence of Late Paleo to Early Archaic point types Coe offers is well supported by the stratigraphic column exposed in his excavations. It has also been demonstrated at other sites in Eastern North America.

Work at the Hardaway Site on the Yadkin River was undertaken prior to dam construction that ultimately led to the creation of Badin Lake. Discovered in 1937, Coe’s principal excavations at the Hardaway Site took place between 1955 and 1958, though limited testing was conducted in 1948 and 1951 (Coe 1964:57–60). The site is situated on a gentle rise overlooking the Yadkin River. The basic late Paleoindian to Early Archaic sequence from the Beech Ridge Site follows the one Coe defined from the Hardaway Site, both in depositional aspects and point typology.

Lowermost was a residual clay loam B horizon developed from the underlying bedrock, a greenstone formation common to the area. This horizon was designated “residual clay” on the profiles depicted in Figure 49 of Coe’s monograph (1964:59). Following Coe’s Roman numeral designations, this soil horizon would have been Level V on the profile, though it is not designated as such in his monograph. It is capped by a horizon that Coe called “a thin layer of humic soil that was only two to three inches thick” (1964:57). It appears as Level IV on the above noted profile. This paleosol horizon contained the Hardaway occupation (Hardaway culture in Coe’s terms), defined by the distinctive Dalton-Hardaway points. Thirty-four of the 44 Hardaway specimens of all varieties (including Dalton-Hardaway, Hardaway Side Notched, and Hardaway Blade) were recovered from Level IV. In fact, Coe notes that numerous Dalton-Hardaway points (Hardaway-Dalton in Coe’s monograph) were “frequently found embedded in the residual clay” capped by Level IV. Clearly, Level IV marked a paleosol A horizon that was the surface of occupation present at 10,500 years B.P., capping a well-developed B horizon.

Immediately capping the residual clay and associated humic horizon designated Level IV was a soil deposit measuring five to six inches in thickness. This horizon contained distinctive corner-notched projectile points with serrated blades. Coe designated this point Palmer after Palmer Mountain, located north of the site area (Coe 1964:57). Several small hearths with associated lithic materials were recovered from this horizon. The vertical distribution of this point shows clearly that it is associated with Level III; 19 of the 50 excavated points from that level are Palmer points (Coe 1964:63, Table 7). Thirteen of these Palmer points were recovered from the overlying Level II Kirk horizon and five from the plowzone. None of the Palmer specimens were recovered from Level IV. It is a type that was clearly separated from the underlying Hardaway-Dalton type.

Level II at the Hardaway Site was described as a soil horizon that had accumulated far more rapidly than the underlying horizons. Judging from the profiles Coe offers, no internal differentiation could be distinguished in this thicker layer, which measured from one to one and a half feet in thickness. Abundant cultural debris was present in the horizon; the dominant point was a corner-notched type with serrated blade elements designated Kirk after a nearby colonial homestead (Coe 1964:57). Two other Kirk point types, Kirk Stemmed and Kirk Serrated, were defined from examples in this layer (Level II), both with square stem elements. Coe notes that the latter two types were more common in the upper part of Level II, while Kirk corner-notched

examples predominated in the lower part of the horizon. Coe interpreted the larger corner-notched Kirk points as a development out of Palmer corner-notched points (see discussion in Anderson et al. 1996 for the relationship between the Kirk and Palmer types). Coe also argues that Kirk stemmed and serrated points eventually led to the development of Stanly and then Savannah River point types (Coe 1964:70). It is assumed that he viewed the introduction of a parallel-stem hafting element as a stylistic and technological feature that later re-emerged in Stanly and Savannah River points.

The plowzone, designated Level I, capped Level II. This horizon had cut into intact Kirk occupations, given that specimens of the Kirk Serrated type were present. Of interest was the near lack of corner-notched Kirk points; out of a total count of 48 from excavated contexts, only two were recovered from the plowzone at the Hardaway Site. Thirty-seven specimens came from intact Level II contexts, while nine were taken from Level III. This vertical distribution supports Coe's interpretation of the corner-notched variant as the earliest of the three Kirk point types defined. Interestingly, later Middle Archaic points—such as Stanly, Morrow Mountain, Guilford, and Late Archaic Savannah River—were found in both plowzone and Level II contexts. However, the stratigraphic position of these later points is better established with the depositional contexts revealed at the Doerschuk and Gaston Sites that Coe excavated.

The Hardaway Site is the cornerstone of the late Paleo to Early Archaic sequence of points for regions east of the Appalachians. Given the relatively secure associations between projectile points and stratigraphic horizons, a clear relationship between broadly defined chronological periods and specific projectile point styles was developed. This measure of time, using points as a fossil index, has provided a means of comparative dating of assemblages with poorly defined depositional contexts or surface sites with little buried context.

The following table presents a schematic outline of the cultural periods and stratigraphic horizons (Coe's levels and soil descriptions) from the Hardaway Site.

**Table 3.1 Hardaway Site: Points by Stratigraphic Horizon**

SOIL LAYER	LEVEL	COMPONENTS
Zone I (plowzone)	Level I	Stanly and Later Points
Zone II (black midden top)	Level II	Kirk
Zone III (black midden)	Level III	Palmer
Zone IV (original humus)	Level IV	Hardaway-Dalton

#### *The Archaic Sequence from the Doerschuk Site*

Doerschuk serves as the type site for the Middle to Late Archaic sequence that is the backbone for the region east of the Appalachians. Its cultural deposits served to organize the latter part of the Archaic sequence contained in the plowzone of the Hardaway Site. With excellent alluvial depositional contexts to provide the basis of cultural stratigraphy, the Doerschuk Site provided the now well-known sequence ordering of Stanly, Morrow Mountain, Guilford, and Savannah River projectile point types. It also provided stratigraphic separation between Early to Middle Woodland Badin and Yadkin ceramics, and the Late Prehistoric Pee Dee and Caraway ceramics.

The earliest point in the site's sequence is the square-stemmed Stanly point. Examples of this type were recovered from deep within a cultural horizon designated Zone XI in the profile defined for the site. This horizon refers to a paleosol clearly visible in Figure 18 of Coe's 1964 monograph, or perhaps more properly, a series of micro paleosols. Coe notes that Zone XI was composed of thin, alternating, varve-like deposits of clay and sand. These alternating layers are seen here as short-term depositional events, consisting of stable horizons developed from recent alluvium. In pedological terms, they could be defined as A/C-C horizon sequences, with each A/C horizon being a stable (in the short term) surface that would have been present for occupation. Needless to say, this would have been close to an active depositional landform adjacent to the river or one of its channels. Located on these multiple surfaces were small and likely transient occupations dating to the Stanly component of the early Middle Archaic period. The total sample of Stanly points recovered from the excavation numbered 31 specimens, all of which were recovered from Zone XI.

A series of thin sterile layers, resulting from periods of both deposition and erosion, capped Zone XI. Coe noted a gully cut into the horizon, suggesting that the surface formed by Zone X was stable for some time. This horizon is important in that it effectively seals the Stanly component (or components) from the later Middle Archaic Morrow Mountain levels. Judging from descriptions on the profile offered in Figure 13 of Coe's monograph, Zone X, a sterile sand horizon, is best interpreted as a C horizon that eventually stabilized long enough to provide a living surface for later components. It is capped by Zone IX, a humus layer or buried A horizon that contained the contracting-stemmed point type designated Morrow Mountain I, a type defined by broad blade elements and shallow, contracting stems. There is no doubt about its stratigraphic separation from the earlier Stanly type point. The Morrow Mountain living surface is a clearly visible paleosol illustrated in Figure 18 of Coe's monograph.

Eventually, depositional events led to the burial of Zone IX by a thick (two-foot) layer of sterile alluvium (sand, as noted by Coe) that stabilized to provide another surface of occupation. This horizon, designated Zone VIII, was sterile; a well-defined living surface, designated Zone VII, is identified at its upper limits. Whatever flood event deposited Zone VIII, it was stable enough to provide an additional surface of occupation, one that eventually supported Zone VI. However, Zone VII contained projectile points with contracting stems that Coe termed Morrow Mountain II. The vertical distribution of this type was not as well expressed as Morrow Mountain I variants. Although the profile Coe illustrates does not show a weathered surface that could be separated from Zone VIII, the photo presented in Figure 18 does show a faint paleosol that would correspond to Zone VII and the Morrow Mountain II occupation. A reexamination of the stratigraphic data from this site would likely show that a paleosol living floor or surface of occupation was present at the Morrow Mountain II level.

Capping Zone VII was a well-developed paleosol, again partially visible in Coe's photograph depicted in Figure 18 and on the profile drawing illustrated in Figure 13. This zone contained the Guilford point type, identified by its lanceolate form and either rounded or concave base. In turn, Zone V, a well-developed paleosol encountered across the site, was stratified immediately above the Guilford level. This horizon was found to contain the classic Savannah River points that define the Late Archaic period throughout the Eastern United States. Curiously, Guilford is geographically limited (Sassaman, Brooks, Hanson, and Anderson 1990), while Savannah River

points have wide geographic distribution, especially when cognate types are taken into account (e.g., Ritchie's Genesee point type; see Ritchie 1969).

**Table 3.2 Doerschuk Site: Points by Stratigraphic Horizon**

STRATIGRAPHIC ZONE	POINT TYPE
Zones I–III	Woodland Occupations
Zone IV	Sterile Horizon
Zone V	Savannah River Component
Zone VI	Guilford Component
Zone VII	Morrow Mountain II Component
Zone VIII	Sterile Horizon
Zone IX	Morrow Mountain I Component
Zone X	Sterile Horizon
Zone XI	Stanly Component

The remaining period at the site in sealed stratigraphic contexts is the Early Woodland Badin ceramic complex, which is beyond the focus of the current discussion. It should be noted, though, that Badin ceramics are part of a widespread Middle Atlantic horizon of Early Woodland ceramics that include Deep Creek, New River, and Accokeek wares. Badin does include surface treatments (such as fabric impressing) more commonly found on Early Woodland wares from the Southeast, unlike Deep Creek, New River, and Accokeek wares. It is notable that many sites have components of these ceramic groups stratified over Savannah River components, such as those Coe found at the Doerschuk Site. The recovery of the crushed vessel during the Phase II investigation at the Beech Ridge Site, in the A2 horizon, points to such a stratigraphic sequence.

The two sites discussed above provide most of the backbone of the Archaic sequence for the Eastern United States and the Middle Atlantic region. The Hardaway Site provided for the establishment of the Dalton-Palmer-Kirk sequence, while the Doerschuk excavations outlined in clear fashion the sequence of Stanly-Morrow Mountain (I and II variants)-Guilford-Savannah River point sequence. As such, it was not complete, and excavations at the Gaston Site helped to fill some of the missing parts of the sequence.

The Gaston Site is situated on the Roanoke River, about seven miles upstream from the town of Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina. Coe's excavations showed that it contained moderately deep deposits with buried late Middle Archaic and Late Archaic components. About 700 square meters of the site were sampled prior to it being inundated by the Roanoke Rapids reservoir in 1955.

Coe did not describe the stratigraphic sequence using the same terminology used for the Hardaway and Doerschuk Sites. However, the photographs and profiles illustrated in his 1964 monograph clearly show the depositional contexts for the site. Figure 84 of the 1964 monograph presents a photograph of Square 55L25 (south profile) that extends to eight feet below the surface (excavations went as deep as nine feet). As the photo shows, the profile is nearly divided in half by a well-expressed paleosol of brown sand Coe called "the old humus." This horizon was situated between 36 to 47 inches below surface; it contained only Savannah River points. The old humus paleosol was situated on a thick deposit of sand extending from 47 to 64 inches

below surface. This sand layer is considered herein as a B/C horizon (a B horizon weathering from a loamy sand C horizon) cross cut by lamellae that are quite visible in the profile shown in Figure 84. Coe termed these lamellae “seepage lines” (Coe 1964:97, descriptions in Figure 89). The uppermost section of the underlying yellow sand contained several hearths with side-notched Halifax projectile points in clear association. Coe’s radiocarbon date for the Halifax occupation, run on samples culled from four hearth features at that level (each with Halifax points in association), was  $3484 \pm 350$  B.C. (Coe 1964:99).

Towards the base of this yellow sand was another occupation characterized by Guilford points (defined at the Doerschuk Site). This point type was consistently recovered from the lower part of the yellow sand horizon and is clearly of an earlier date than the Halifax points in the site’s depositional history. No features were documented at the Gaston Site belonging to the Guilford component.

The Gaston Site is also significant for the later components documented during Coe’s salvage excavations prior to inundation. However, the important aspect for the present discussion is the stratigraphic placement of the side-notched Halifax point in the master sequence, intercalated between Guilford and Savannah River types. Halifax is part of a broadly distributed late Middle Archaic side-notched horizon that includes not only Brewerton in the Northeast, but Big Sandy II in the Ohio Valley and Matanzas and Godar side-notched points in the central Mississippi Valley (Brown and Vierra, in Phillips and Brown 1983). A single example of a small and heavily curated (or resharpened) side-notched point interpreted as a Brewerton cognate was recovered from Beech Ridge in soil contexts above the Morrow Mountain horizon at the site.

The three sites reviewed above have provided the framework for the Archaic sequence for the Eastern United States since the mid 1950’s. Witthoft, in his summary of the Archaic of Eastern Pennsylvania, cites the sequences in Coe’s then unpublished report, noting that the depositional context and associated materials from Poplar Island and Piney Island (both in the Susquehanna River on the Maryland-Pennsylvania line). The sequence from Late Paleo to Late Archaic has remained the backbone of the pre-Woodland stage chronology that provides the framework in which archaeological work is conducted within the East (see sequence below).

Dalton-Hardaway→Palmer→Kirk→Stanly→Morrow  
Mountain→Guilford→Halifax→Savannah River

The relatively straightforward point sequence led to a chronological model called the Coe Axiom, as defined by Louis Brennan, a concept that stipulates clear association of specific point types by stratigraphic horizon when such can be defined in a well-sealed archaeological site. The reliable placement of specific points or stylistic attributes of points (e.g., hafting elements) with chronologically well-defined time periods serves to provide a framework for the relative dating of other sites lacking radiocarbon dates.

#### *The Saint Alban’s Site Sequence, West Virginia*

Additions to this sequence and confirmation of its widespread validity were obtained from a number of sites tested throughout the 1960s. Broyles’ excavations at the St. Alban’s Site along

the Kanawha River near Charleston, West Virginia, provided significant corroboration of parts of the sequence; they also added the critical bifurcate components to the Archaic continuum. The principal confirmation came in demonstrating the early placement of corner-notched Palmer/Kirk points below living floors characterized by the classic LeCroy bifurcate point and its several varieties (Broyles 1971). Coe did not record this latter point type, a widespread horizon marker of the earlier periods of the Middle Archaic, at the three stratified sites tested in the Carolina Piedmont. It is, however, an important type in regional sequences.

Chapman dates bifurcate points to about 6700 to 6000 B.C. based on excavations at a number of deeply buried sites in the Tennessee River basin (Chapman 1985:70). Based on stratigraphy, a sequence of three separate bifurcate forms has been recognized: St. Alban's, LeCroy, and Kanawha. The two earlier versions appear to overlap with Kirk Stemmed variants. Several sites in the Northeast have provided dates for the LeCroy variant of the bifurcate point. A hearth feature from the Russ Site in New York provided charcoal samples that dated to 5930±145 B.C. and 6270±420 B.C. (Funk 1978:23). Closer to Beech Ridge is the Osborn Site in Salem County, located in southern New Jersey. Here, excavations revealed a small lithic workshop area with six associated LeCroy points.

In the Delmarva region, bifurcate points are common in surface collections, though few sites have been found that provide stratigraphic context for this widespread and distinctive type. In the Western Coastal Plain of Maryland, for example, excavations at the Higgins Site (18AN489) in Anne Arundel County revealed a LeCroy and other bifurcate components identified via Kanawha and MacCorkle variants (one each of the latter two types) stratified above a Clovis occupation and below terminal Middle Archaic Otter Creek and Brewerton components (Ebright 1992:154). The LeCroy component was found at the base of Block 2, on top of a pavement of limonite cobbles. The LeCroy component was recovered from the base of a moderately thick Holocene deposit of probable alluvial origin found across the site area.

The stratigraphic context of the LeCroy component at Higgins is similar to the bifurcate component found in sealed stratigraphic contexts at the Frederick Lodge Site complex. At Frederick Lodge, an intact LeCroy was encountered at the base of Stratum B in Block D (Petraglia 2003:6-21 to 6-24). Stratum B is an early Holocene soil formed on the Columbia formation and is comparable to the thick C horizon encountered at the Beech Ridge Site.

#### *Savannah River Site Sequences in the Richard B. Russell Reservoir, Georgia and South Carolina*

There are two sites excavated in the Savannah River Piedmont that offer further corroboration of the basic Archaic sequence Coe established. The most important, perhaps, is the Gregg Shoals Site on the Georgia side of the river, situated at the confluence of Pickens Creek and the Savannah River. Excavation of a large block unit (Operation A) at the site in the early 1980s (Tippitt and Marquardt 1984:7-22 through 7-37) revealed a sequence that in part mirrors Coe's sequence (1964).

In Zone IX, a deep horizon at the site, excavation uncovered a Kirk corner-notched variant, a Stanly stemmed point, and a specimen tentatively identified as a Kirk Stemmed variant or St. Alban's Side-Notched. It is not clear from the report whether or not the Kirk variant was below



the Stanly point. Stratified above this horizon was a low-density horizon, Zone VIII, which likely dates to the Middle Archaic period. Immediately above this horizon was Zone VII, a buried context that contained four Morrow Mountain I specimens. Two of these points were associated with a small hearth exposed in the block unit.

Stratigraphic contexts above the Morrow Mountain horizon at the site contained several square-stemmed points that would fit well within Coe's small variant of the Savannah River type (Coe 1964:110, where several of these points are illustrated in Figure 106). These points were recovered from Zone V at the site, stratified below a horizon (Zone III) that produced the base of a steatite vessel.

The sequence at this site—showing the ordering of Kirk, Stanly, Morrow Mountain, and Savannah River variants—is well supported by the stratigraphy exposed in the deep block excavation. To the south of this site, across Pickens Creek, stand another floodplain parcel and the Clyde Gulley Site. Here, excavations revealed a moderately deep horizon or living floor on the inner side of the floodplain with Early Archaic Palmer/Kirk points in association. The investigators noted that the debris associated with the three Palmer/Kirk variants pointed to curation type activities or blade sharpening (Tippitt and Marquardt 1984:8–16). This pattern is remarkably similar to that defined for the Beech Ridge Palmer/Kirk occupation at the bases of the C horizon capping the Pleistocene paleosol horizon.

There are other sites in the Russell Reservoir survey area that contained parts of the Archaic sequence. Discussion of these, however, would simply replicate information presented above from the Gregg Shoals and Clyde Gulley Sites. Additionally, Sassaman et al. discuss the Archaic sequence from a number of sites in the Middle Savannah River area (Sassaman, Brooks, Hanson, and Anderson 1990:168–177). These authors noted that the seriation of diagnostic points from the sites within the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site “reflects a sound chronological sequence for the study area which duplicates much of the Carolina Piedmont Sequence” (Sassaman et al. 1990:177).

### *The Delaware River Valley Sequence from Harry's Farm*

Comparable Archaic sequences to that defined from the Southeast have been documented in the Upper Delaware River Valley. Herbert Kraft's excavations at the Harry's Farm Site in Warren County, New Jersey, revealed a fascinating sequence that bears directly on understanding the culture history of the Beech Ridge Site. Kraft's excavations at the site were part of the work conducted for the National Park Service in anticipation of the Tocks Island Reservoir project. The sequence from this site presents in outline parts of the Archaic chronological point sequence that Coe defined from the Carolina Piedmont.

Excavations at this site revealed a living floor in Zone 8 between 84 to 96 inches below surface. A Kirk corner-notched point was recovered from this context, along with a large biface, notched pebbles (suggesting net weights), and debitage. Several shallow pit features were exposed, one containing carbonized butternut fragments and wood charcoal. The single radiocarbon date from this stratigraphic context is  $7320 \pm 125$  B.P. or, with the MASCA correction, 6100 to 6375 B.C. (Kraft 1975:15). Given the presence of a large exposed living floor, Harry's Farm offers

significant data relevant to the structure of an Early Archaic occupation that is larger than a small transient hunting camp. The Kirk component at the site is best interpreted as a small base camp representing a larger social group than seen in small hunting camps. Given the presence of net weights, it was likely a seasonally based occupation situated to take advantage of riverine resources.

Stratified above the Kirk component was a Middle Archaic component in Zone 4 marked by side-notched Kittatinny points, a regional variant of the side-notched Brewerton and Halifax points. This horizon in turned was capped by a Late Archaic occupation containing both Lackawaxan and Poplar Island points (Kraft 1975). Of interest was the recovery of two point groups that Kraft did not assign to known types. These two are unidentified tapering broad-stemmed points and unidentified rectangular-stemmed points. Both are excellent variants of the Savannah River point. Indeed, Kraft notes that the rectangular-stemmed point is similar to Ritchie's Genesee point, an excellent Northeast variant of the Savannah River type.

The sequence from Harry's Farm thus provides a significant portion of the Archaic sequence as Coe originally defined for the Carolina Piedmont. Other sites within the Northeast and greater Middle Atlantic regions could be discussed that have one or more of the major Archaic periods in stratigraphic contexts matching the sequence at Beech Ridge.

The projectile point sequence from the Beech Ridge Site can be seen as an example of a widespread Atlantic Slope macro-chronological tradition that has both great time depth and extensive geographic referents. Regional variation in terms of stylistic treatments and use of various raw materials (e.g., pebble versus tabular sources) affect aspects of individual point typologies. However, when overall stylistic attributes of hafting elements and patterns of curation are taken into consideration, extensive patterning through time can be seen.